

SHB 2817 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education

ADOPTED 03/03/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature recognizes the vital importance to the state's
6 economic prosperity and the economic benefit of placing a priority on
7 enrolling and conferring degrees upon students in the fields of
8 engineering, technology, biotechnology, science, computer science, and
9 mathematics.

10 (2) The legislature has significant concerns that other countries
11 are outpacing the United States in graduating qualified engineers, and
12 that major corporations within Washington state are searching out-of-
13 state and even outside the United States to find the qualified and
14 trained employees they need.

15 (3) Data compiled by the technology alliance shows that Washington
16 state ranks thirty-fourth among the fifty states in the percentage of
17 residents who have earned a science or engineering degree, per capita.

18 (4) Data collected by the office of financial management indicates
19 that between the academic years of 1993-94 and 2003-04 at public four-
20 year institutions of higher education in Washington state:

21 (a) There was a twelve percent decline in the number of full-time
22 equivalents enrolled in the fields of engineering and related
23 technologies; and

24 (b) There was nearly a nine percent decline in the number of
25 bachelor's degrees conferred in the fields of engineering and related
26 technologies.

27 (5) Data collected by the office of financial management also shows
28 that for the 2003-04 academic year, only four percent of all full-time
29 equivalents were enrolled in engineering and related technologies and

1 just two percent of all full-time equivalents were enrolled in computer
2 science studies at public four-year institutions of higher education in
3 the state.

4 (6) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to promote
5 increased access, delivery models, enrollment slots, and degree
6 opportunities in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology,
7 sciences, computer sciences, and mathematics. It is recognized that
8 these areas of study and training are integrally linked to ensuring
9 that Washington state's economy can compete nationally and globally in
10 the twenty-first century marketplace. It is also recognized that
11 community colleges play a unique role in supporting degree attainment
12 in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
13 through the development of transferable curricula and the maintenance
14 of viable articulation agreements with both public and private
15 universities.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) A state priority is established for institutions of higher
19 education, including community colleges, to encourage growing numbers
20 of enrollments and degrees in the fields of engineering, technology,
21 biotechnology, sciences, computer sciences, and mathematics.

22 (2) In meeting this state priority, the legislature understands and
23 recognizes that the demands of the economic marketplace and the desires
24 of students are not always on parallel tracks. Therefore, institutions
25 of higher education shall determine local student demand for programs
26 in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, sciences,
27 computer sciences, and mathematics and submit findings and proposed
28 alternatives to meet demand to the higher education coordinating board
29 and the legislature by November 1, 2008.

30 (3) While it is understood that these areas of emphasis should not
31 be the sole focus of institutions of higher education. It is the
32 intent of the legislature that steady progress in these areas occur.
33 The higher education coordinating board shall track and report progress
34 in the fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology, sciences,
35 computer sciences, and mathematics including, but not limited to, the
36 following information:

1 (a) The number of students enrolled in these fields on a biennial
2 basis;

3 (b) The number of associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees
4 conferred in these fields on a biennial basis;

5 (c) The amount of expenditures in enrollment and degree programs in
6 these fields; and

7 (d) The number and type of public-private partnerships established
8 relating to these fields among institutions of higher education,
9 including community colleges, and leading corporations in Washington
10 state.

11 (4) Institutions of higher education, including community colleges,
12 shall be provided discretion and flexibility in achieving the
13 objectives under this section. Examples of the types of institutional
14 programs that may help achieve these objectives include, but are not
15 limited to, establishment of institutes of technology, new polytechnic-
16 based institutions, new divisions of existing institutions, and a
17 flexible array of delivery models, including face-to-face learning,
18 interactive courses, internet-based offerings, and instruction on main
19 campuses, branch campuses, and other educational centers.

20 (5) The legislature recognizes the global needs of the economic
21 marketplace for technologically prepared graduates, and the
22 relationship between technology industries and higher education.
23 Institutions of higher education, including community colleges, are
24 strongly urged to consider science, engineering, and technology program
25 growth in areas of the state that exhibit a high concentration of
26 aerospace, biotechnology, and technology industrial presence. Expanded
27 science and technology programs can gain from the proximity of
28 experienced and knowledgeable industry leaders, while industry can
29 benefit from access to new sources of highly trained and educated
30 graduates."

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1 On page 1, line 4 of the title, after "education;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "and adding new sections to chapter
3 28B.10 RCW."

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